

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01

OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 DRC-01 /244 W

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R 231435Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2192

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

REF: A. GENEVA 5588; B. STATE 203517

1. GATT COUNCIL ACTION OCTOBER 19 REPORTED REF A WAS BASED ON INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH SPANISH MISSION BY GATT DG AND COUNCIL CHAIRMAN KITAHARA. INFORMAL MEETING OF KEY DELEGATIONS WAS CONVENED BY BOP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DUNKEL IN ORDER PROVIDE KITAHARA AND DG WITH GUIDANCE ON KIND OF OUTCOME THESE DELS WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT. INITIAL SPANISH POSITION IN CONTACTS WITH DG AND KITAHARA WAS REFUSAL TO ACCEPT BOP COMMITTEE REPORT OR IMF FINDING PLUS REQUEST THAT GATT COUNCIL TAKE NOTE OF SPANISH LIBERALIZATION EFFORTS. DG AND KITAHARA FINALLY PREVAILED ON SPAINARDS (WHO OF COURSE WERE IN DAILY CONTACT WITH MADRID) THAT UNDER GATT RULES (XV:2) IMF FINDING MUST BE ACCEPTED AND CONSEQUENTLY BOP COMMITTEE REPORT MUST ALSO

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BE ADOPTED BY GATT COUNCIL. KEY DELEGATIONS INCLUDING

U.S. PER REF B PREFERRED CALL ON SPAIN TO SET TIMETABLE FOR LIBERALIZATION BUT SPANIARDS INITIALLY WILLING ONLY HAVE COUNCIL CALL ON SPAIN "TO CONTINUE THEIR POLICY OF LIBERALIZATION." KEY DELS THEN SUGGESTED DG/KITAHARA ATTEMPT HAVE COUNCIL ACTION CONFINED TO ADOPTION OF REPORT WITH VARIOUS DELS PREPARED TO TAKE FLOOR TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON ACTION SPAIN SHOULD TAKE IN LIGHT AGREEMENT BY ALL (INCLUDING SPAIN) THAT GOS RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS CAN NO LONGER BE JUSTIFIED ON B/P GROUNDS. SPANIARDS BALKED AT THIS AND IN NEGOTIATIONS CARRIED OUT BY DG AND KITAHARA, TEXT REPORTED REF A WAS MAXIMUM ACCEPTABLE TO SPAIN.

2. IN COUNCIL, CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED RESULTS OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AND READ OUT TEXT REF A WHICH WAS THEN ADOPTED. SPANISH AMBASSADOR THEN SPOKE FOR ABOUT HALF HOUR, REVIEWING HISTORY OF SPANISH BALANCE OF TRADE AND PAYMENTS AND LIBERALIZATION EFFORTS. EMPHASIS WAS ON EXTREMELY HIGH RATE OF GROWTH OF SPANISH IMPORTS IN APPARENT EFFORT DEMONSTRATE GOS IMPORT POLICY NOT RESTRICTIVE. CANADA AND SWEDEN SAID THEIR GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE WATCHING SPANISH PROGRESS. US (MILLER) SPOKE BRIEFLY ALONG LINES REF B. INDIA AND ARGENTINA EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR SPAIN'S "PROBLEMS". NO OTHER DELEGATIONS COMMENTED.BASSIN

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